AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR

AND

Literary Gazette.

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Conducted under the direction of the Association, by CHARLES R. RODE.

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AN OFFENSIVE CLASS OF WRITERS.

From the "Boston Transcript."

Some of our readers who are in the habit of taking books from the Athenæum, Boston, or Mercantile Library, have doubtless been annoyed by a practice to which we desire to call the particular attention of those in fault. We refer to the marginal annotations with which some persons insist upon furnishing those who are to follow as readers of the volumes upon which these luminous criticisms are recorded. There is an amusing variety in these anonymous opinions, as inscribed upon sundry books which have fallen under our notice. Sometimes the reader expresses his disgust with a volume by a terse sentence on the title-page, as in the volume of Carlyle's Essays, from the Mercantile Library, now before us. One critic pronounces it "a humbug," and another says—"too hard work to read this book;" while the pages of the same volume are enriched by a long marginal disquisition upon the German mind—the style being modelled upon that of Carlyle, but exhibiting "the contortions of the sybil, without her inspiration." We remember to have seen a volume of Macaulay's Essays, with the gratifying mark appended, of "pretty fair"—a commendation which would, perhaps, be encouraging to the Baron, as coming from an American source. Washington Irving is endorsed on the fly leaf as "tip-top," and Dickens as "first rate."

The comments pencilled in books from the Athenæum and Public Libraries are generally of a different character. The anonymous critics signify their approval or dislike of the text in copious marginal notes, or by means of cabalistic characters supposed to express various degrees of assent or disagreement. Sometimes a passage of poetry will have "How beautiful!" written in a feminine hand in the margin, or a proposition be flanked by "True," or "Right," or "Doubtful." A favorite mode of expression is by means of underlining or of perpendicular marks against such passages as strike the reader as being particularly true, brilliant, or startling. This practice, in particular, seems to be increasing to a deplorable extent.

There are some persons among these self-constituted critics with whom it is useless to remonstrate upon the impropriety of their conduct. The foolishness of a fool will not depart from him though you bray him in a mortar, and the conceited pedant will thrust his worthless opinions upon you in spite of your manifest desire to be delivered from them. But a moment's reflection will convince any reasonable person that the practice of marking borrowed books in any manner is an impertinence which no lady or gentleman should be guilty of. That which pleases one person may be distasteful to the next reader; and the latter will not thank his predecessor for his unwelcome criticism. Those who are nothing if not critical, and whose opinions upon the work in hand will have vent, should record their convictions in a private volume, for the mental refreshment of themselves and their immediate friends. But the readers of library books should be permitted to judge of the merits thereof unembarrassed by gratuitous comments, which are generally as worthless as they are unwelcome.

Literary Intelligence.

From the London Publishers' Circular, November 15.

Our list of new books hardly as yet justifies the expectations that might have been founded upon the numerous announcements, in our last, of works in preparation. The Scouring of the White Horse, by the Author of Tom Brown, has been subscribed to the trade with a result that the popularity of the latter book justifies, but will not be published for a week: the new illustrated Childe Harold was shown at Mr. Murray's sale on Wednesday, but is not yet delivered. Amongst the actual publications of the last fortnight will be found The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel's Essay on England and India; Latimer's Sermons and Life, by Watkins; Winslow's Glory of the Redeemer; Bellew's Sermons, Vol. 3; Ross's Traces of Primitive Truth; Alexander's Gospel according to St. Mark; Croly's The Night, the Dawn, and the Day; Maclean's Sermons at Bath; Our Little Ones in Heaven; Sheppard's Christian Harp; Hale's Graves of Our Fathers; The Afternoon of Unmarried Life; Lessons of Life for Female Domestics; Baron Munchausen's Travel's, Illustrated in chromo-lithography by Alfred Crowquill; Gray's Poetical Works, illustrated; Thomson's Seasons, illustrated by Pickersgill; Wordsworth's Deserted Cottage, illustrated; Goldsmith's Poems, edited by Aris Willmott,

with colored illustrations; M'Leod's Dreamland, illustrated; Warton's The Hamlet, illustrated; Atkinson's Social and Political Economy, Vol. 1; Miller and Collier's Treatise on Bills of Sale; Timbs's Curiosities of Science; Latham's Treatise on Wrought-Iron Bridges; Crowe's History of France, Vol. 1; Henry the Third of France, by Miss Freer: Wilks's Three Archbishops (Lanfranc, Anselm, and A'Beckett); Brown's Sixty Years' Gleanings from Life's Harvest; Sir Humphry Davy's Remains; Beaton's Creoles and Coolies; Mecham's Sketches and Incidents of the Siege of Lucknow; Walmsley's Algeria during the Kabyle War; Williams's Adventures of Travels in Africa; A Legend of the Rhine, a Poem; Poems by Cecil; The Money Bag; Redmarsh Rectory; Armstrong's Young Middy; The Laird of Norlaw, by Mrs. Oliphant; and Un Débat sur l'Inde au Parlement Anglais, par Montalembert.

There are announced—What will he do with it? by the Right Hon. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton; Adam Bede, by George Eliot, Author of Scenes of Clerical Life; The Romance and its Hero, by the Author of Magdalen Stafford; Agnes Hopetoun's Schools and Holidays, by Mrs. Oliphant; Alice Littleton, a Tale of the Present Day; The Fate of Folly, by Lord B****; The Lily of Devon, by C. F. Armstrong; Varium, a Novel; The Poems and Ballads of Goethe, by W. E. Aytoun and Theodore Martin; Bhanavur, a Romantic Poem, by Edward Fitzball; Wordsworth's White Doe of Rylstone, illustrated; The Merrie Days of England, by E. M'Dermott, illustrated; A Manual of Chemical Analysis, by A. B. Northcote and A. H. Church; Chemistry for Schools, by Dr. Lardner; Cambridge Essays for 1858; The Book of Farm Buildings, by Henry Stephens and Robert Scott Burn; Memoirs of Capt. W. Thornton Bate, by the Rev. John Baillie; St. Augustine, a Biographical Memoir, by the Rev. John Baillie; A Year's Campaigning in India, by Julius George Medley; A Trip to an Indigo Manufactory, or Rural Life in Bengal; Four Months in Algeria, by the Rev. J. W. Blakesley; An Inquiry into the Evidence relating to the Charges brought by Lord Macaulay against William Penn, by J. Paget; School Songs, original and selected, with Music, edited by the Rev. E. Thring; The Religions of Egypt and Medo-Persia, by Charles Hardwick; Exeter Hall Lectures during the coming season; The Life of M. Olier, Founder of St. Sulpice, by E. H. Thompson; Seven Years' Street Preaching in California, by the Rev. W. Taylor; a re-issue of Dr. Lardner's Museum of Science and Art; and a new Series of Historical Tales, in one-shilling parts.

In announcing a fête to be held on the occasion of the Burns Centenary, at the Crystal Palace, on January 25th, 1859, the Directors of that institution offer a prize of Fifty Guineas for the best poem on the subject, the copyright to remain in the hands of the Company.

Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson have announced the sale of the celebrated assemblage of manuscripts known as the Libri Collection, said to be one of the most important ever brought forward, as regards high historical interest and value, and which will doubtless excite great attention on the part of those desirous of procuring treasures of so high a degree of rarity. The books are also of a rare and fine class, embracing first editions of the classics, romances of chivalry, the rarest editions of the poets of Europe, and an extraordinary collection of exquisite bindings illustrating the history of bibliology from the earliest period.

Mr. Murray gave his annual sale dinner on the 10th inst., at the Albion Tavern: it was attended as usual by all the chiefs of the London trade. Without any very leading new books, there were sufficient of interest to sustain good numbers, and to make up a large amount sold. The business commenced with the Rev. W. Ellis's Madagascar, of which nearly 1700 copies were taken; the new edition of Æsop's Fables, 1500; the Marquis Cornwallis's Papers and Correspondence relating to the American War, 3 vols. 350; a new volume of Sermons by the Rev. J. J. Blunt, 1600; the Third Volume of Rawlinson's Herodotus, 800; of the cheap edition of Lord Dufferin's High Latitudes, 1000; Fergusson's Architecture, 700; good numbers of Lockhart's Spanish Ballads; a new illustrated edition of Childe Harold, from original drawings by Skelton; Lane's Arabian Nights; etc.: and of the old favorites, Mrs. Markham's England and Little Arthur's England commanded the highest numbers, each attaining orders for above 7000 copies: altogether a large sum total was the result.

A copy of the First Edition of Burns's Poems, printed at Kilmarnock in 1786, was recently sold at a sale in Edinburgh for £3 10s: it is in the original binding, and was bought by Mr. Stevenson, of Edinburgh, the antiquarian bookseller.

Messrs. Southgate & Barrett, of Fleet Street, have concluded a sale of the literary property belonging to the late Mr. Bogue. The amount realized by the sale was nearly 10,000*l.* Among the copyrights and stereotype plates sold were the following:—The Illustrated Byron, 1,006 copies, the stereotype plate and wood blocks, 350*l.*—Milton's Poetical Works, illustrated, 500 copies, the wood blocks, stereotype plates, and copyright of Memoir, 250*l.*—Cowper's Poems illustrated, 500 copies, the wood blocks, stereotype plates, and copyright of Memoir, 160*l.*—Library of Christian Biography, edited by the Bishop of Ripon, the wood blocks, stereotype plates, and the copyright, 180*l.*—The Boy's Treasury of Sports, Pastimes, and Recreations, illustrated, the wood blocks and copyright, and 167 copies, 160*l.*—Mrs. Crosland's Memorable Women, the wood blocks, stereotype plates, and copyright, 80*l.*—The Boat and the Caravan, 400 copies, and the copyright, 70*l.*—The Playmate, the stereotype plates and copyright, 60*l.*—Thomson's Seasons, illustrated, 250 copies, the wood blocks, stereotype plates, and the copyright of Memoir, 85*l.*—Christmas with the Poets, 298 copies, the wood blocks and stereotype plates 220*l.*

A new periodical, devoted chiefly to the study of the philosophy of languages, has recently been commenced in Paris; it is called *Tribune des Linguistes*, and is edited by Mr. Henricy, formerly one of the editors of *Le National.*

New Publications

Received at the Office of the AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

[In the following List will be found the names of such books only as have been sent to this Journal. The titles of all books as they are issued will be regularly inserted in the proper column.]

Ticknor & Fields favor us with two new publications. "Thorndale; or, the Conflict of Opinions," is by William Smith, author of "Athelwold, a Drama," "A Discourse on Ethics," etc, who dedicates the book to "the idle hour of the thoughtful reader; to the idle hour, for it makes slight pretensions to instruct; to the thoughtful reader, for it is by the excitement of reflection it hopes to entertain." They also publish, in a very pretty little volume, "Christmas Hours," by the author of "The Homeward Path," and "Beginning and Growth of the Christian Life; or, the Sunday School Teacher."

Clark, Austin & Smith publish "Memorial of the Revival in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, [Rev. Henry Ward Beecher,] during the early part of the year 1858: comprising Incidents and Narratives, and also Fragments of Sermons, Lectures, etc., by the Pastor, by a Member of the Church."

William S. & Alfred Martien issue "Idolette Stanley: or, the Beauty of Discipline," by M. M. B.

W. A. Townsend & Co. have got out "The Physician's Hand-Book of Practice, for 1859," by William Elmer, M.D. This very useful manual adds "to all the conveniences of a Diary and Memorandum, about one hundred pages of printed matter, designed to embrace in a condensed view, our knowledge upon some of the most important points to be considered in the treatment of disease. Hence, this little Manual is intended to serve a twofold office; first, as a prompter to the memory of the Physician; and secondly, as a plan of his daily business, and a record of valuable observations which he may desire to preserve."

D. Appleton & Co. publish "The Ministry of Life," by Maria Louisa Charlesworth, author of "Ministering Children," etc., etc. "This work has not been written to illustrate the personal effort involved in moral progress on earth, but to illustrate the actual ministry of life; therefore the former is only alluded to, while the latter is dwelt upon in detail. If our aim in life be rightly directed, and followed in a right spirit, sustaining strength for every effort, and patience under every discouragement, will certainly be given from on high." Also "Nightcaps," by the author of "Aunt Fanny's Christmas Stories," a humorous volume for little children.

New Announcements since our Last Issue.

Harper & Brothers.

Muirhead's Life of James Watt.
Hanworth.
Maud Bingley.
Hector Gannet of Otter.
Memoir of Rev. Jabez Bunting, D.D.
Gerald Fitzgerald, by Charles Lever.

Phillips, Sampson & Co.

Our Charley, and What to do with him, by Mrs. H. B. Stowe.

Derby & Jackson.

Notes from Plymouth Pulpit: a Collection of Memorable Passages from the Discourses of Henry Ward Beecher, with a Sketch of Mr. Beecher and the Lecture Room, by Augusta Moore.

Ticknor & Fields.

Mrs. Fanny Kemble's Poems. A new and enlarged edition.
Rev. F. W. Robertson's Lectures and Addresses on Literary and Social Topics.
Willie Winkie's Nursery Songs of Scotland, edited by Mrs. Silsbee.

List of New Works.

AMERICAN.

Annondale.—A Story of the Times of the Covenanters. By the author of "Marion Harvey." 18mo. pp. 196. [Presbyterian Board of Pub.]

Cassin.—United States Exploring Expedition, during the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, under the Command of Charles Wilkes, U. S. N. Mammalogy and Ornithology. With a folio Atlas. By John Cassin, Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, etc. 4to. pp. 456. [J. B. Lippincott & Co.] 50 00

Charlesworth.—The Ministry of Life. By Maria Louisa Charlesworth, author of "Ministering Children," etc., etc. 12mo. pp. 422. [D Appleton & Co.] 1 00

CHILDREN (The) of the Church, and Sealing Ordinances. 18mo. pp. 110. [Pres. Board of Publication.]

COOLEY.—Reports of Cases Heard and Decided in the Supreme Court of Michigan, from January 1st, to November 12th, 1858. Thomas M. Cooley, Reporter. Vol. I. Being volume V. of the Series. [Doughty, Straw & Co., Detroit.]

CURTIS.—Arabian Day's Entertainments. Translated from the German, by E. Pelham Curtis, Esq. 12mo. pp. 434. [Phillips, Sampson & Co.] 1 25

ELMER.—The Physician's Hand-Book of Practice, for 1859. By William Elmer, M.D. Pocket-book form. [W. A. Townsend & Co.] 1 25

GIRARD.—United States Exploring expedition, during the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, under the Command of Charles Wilkes, U. S. N. Herpetology. With a folio Atlas. By Dr. Charles Girard, of the Smithsonian Institution, etc. 4to. pp. 496. [J. B. Lippincott & Co.] 30 00

HODGES.—Practical Dissections. By Richard M. Hodges, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical Department of Harvard University. 16mo. pp. 254. [John Bartlett.]

HUNTINGTON.—Hymns of the Ages: being Selections from Classic Devotional Poetry; principally from the "Lyra Apostolica," "Lyra Catholica," and "Lyra Germanica." With an Introduction, by Prof. F. D. Huntington. 8vo. [Phillips, Sampson & Co.]

LIFE among the Children. By the author of "Aunt Fanny's Lessons," etc. 12mo. pp. 175. [R. L. Delisser.] 63

MEMORIAL of the Revival in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, [Rev. Henry Ward Beecher,] during the early part of the Year 1858; comprising Incidents and Narratives, and also Fragments of Sermons, Lectures, etc., by the Pastor. By a Member of the Church. 24mo. pp. 144. [Clark, Austin & Smith.]

NALL.—The Widow's Sixpence; or, Go Thou and Do Likewise. By Josephine Nall. 18mo. pp. 204. [Presbyterian Board of Publication.]

NIGHTCAPS. By the author of "Aunt Fanny's Christmas Stories." 32mo. pp. 171. [D. Appleton & Co.] 50

OSBORN.—Palestine, Past and Present. By Rev. Henry S. Osborn, A.M., professor of Natural Sciences, Roanoke College, Member of the American Scientific Association, and Honorary Member of the Malta [Mediterranean) Scientific Institute. 8vo. pp. 600. [James Challen & Son.] 3 50

POOR AND PROUD; or, the Fortunes of Katy Redburn. By Oliver Optic, author of the "Boat Club," "All Aboard," etc. 16mo. pp. 274. [Phillips, Sampson & Co.] 63

PRESCOTT.—History of the Reign of Philip the Second, King of Spain. By William H. Prescott. Vol. 3. 8vo. pp. 476. [Phillips, Sampson & Co.] 2 25

PRESBURY.—The Mustee; or, Love and Liberty. By B. F. Presbury. 12mo. pp. 487. (Shepard, Clark & Brown.] 1 25

STRUGGLES (The) of the Early Christians, from the Days of Our Saviour to the Reign of Constantine. By a Lady of Boston. With an Introduction, by Rev. F. A. Huntington, D.D. [John P. Jewett & Co.] 50

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